Availability of air services in U.P.

†1654. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the cities in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh where air services are not available; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Presently, Lucknow, Varanasi, Allahabad, Agra and Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh are airlinked by Indian Airlines/private airlines.

(b) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, upto the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by Government.

Threat to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport, Kolkata

1655. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the nodal agency in charge of safety at Indian airports, has perceived a 'real' threat to the Kolkata's Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport from ISI agents and Myanmar-financed militant groups of the North-East; and

(b) if so, the details of security measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, BCAS being the Appropriate Authority under National Civil Aviation Security Programme lays down from time to time security norms in line with the Standard and Recommended Practices of Annexe 17 of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) which are adopted in all operational civil airports in the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.